

Thursday, July 8, 2010

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*Meeting Open to the Public on First-Come, First-Serve Basis*

*Will Be Held In En Banc Courtroom at Eagleton Courthouse; Opening Statements Will Begin at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday July 13*

(ST. LOUIS, MO) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) announced details regarding the House Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting taking place next Tuesday in St. Louis. The purpose of the meeting is to investigate recent safety lapses at the John Cochran VA Medical Center that potentially exposed over 1,800 veterans from Missouri, Illinois and other states to blood-borne pathogens.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 13th in the En Banc Courtroom at the Eagleton Courthouse. Opening statements will begin at 1:00 p.m. CT, with testimony to follow.

It will be open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Credentialed media interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Rep. Carnahan's office by calling 314-962-1523, or emailing [amber.whittington@mail.house.gov](mailto:amber.whittington@mail.house.gov).

Limited seating will be reserved for audience members with special needs. Please contact Amber Whittington at 314-962-1523 for more information.

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting was scheduled in response to a request from Carnahan earlier this month. Attendees include affected veterans, acting director of the Cochran VA center RimaAnn Nelson, representatives from veterans organizations and the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as Earlene Johnson, the former Cochran employee who has produced email evidence that she told a supervisor about problems with the dental equipment sterilization process as early as August 2009 - six months before the VA addressed the problem.

**"The stories I have heard from veterans since this issue came to light are deeply disturbing,"** Carnahan said. **"These veterans want and deserve answers, and I intend to get them."**

On Thursday, July 8th, Carnahan will tour the Cochran facility and meet with area veterans to discuss their concerns. He will hold a media availability at 11:15 a.m. CT, immediately following the meeting with area veterans, at the Urban League Offices at 3701 Grandel Square.

Veterans and family members who may have further questions or concerns are urged to contact Congressman Russ Carnahan's office at 314-962-1523.

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